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Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

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Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, by which it proclaimed the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development",

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and 1989/84 of 24 May 1989 on guidelines for international decades in economic and social fields and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

Reaffirming the sustainable development goals and targets related to water resources, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] and determined to achieve the goal of ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all and other related goals and targets,

Emphasizing that water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, that water, energy, food security and nutrition are linked and that water is indispensable for human development, health and well-being and a vital element of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant goals in the social, environmental and economic fields,

Noting that the world is not on track to achieve water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets at the global level by 2030 at the current rate of progress,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further that the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, has a central role in overseeing the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global level,

[1] Resolution 70/1.

Recognizing synergies between the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,[2] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[4]

Emphasizing that the achievement of the water-related goals and targets would contribute to the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda,[5] the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[6] the Convention on Biological Diversity[7] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[8]

Recognizing that the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, and acknowledging that disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development,

Taking note of the report of the High-level Panel on Water established by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank, entitled "Making Every Drop Count", the *Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation*, issued in 2018, and the *United Nations World Water Development Report 2018*,

Noting with concern that climate change is one of the factors that can exacerbate the global water stress and the need for climate adaptation strategies to address water issues,

Recognizing that water-related issues, including the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets, need to be better reflected in the agendas of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the Final Declaration, the Co-Chairs summary and the Call for Action and Partnerships of the High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, co-organized by the Government of Tajikistan and the United Nations, held in Dushanbe from 20 to 22 June 2018,

Noting the outcomes and the Ministerial Declaration of the eighth World Water Forum, held in Brasilia from 18 to 23 March 2018, and the outcomes of the United Nations special thematic sessions on water and disasters,

1. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's Plan: Water Action Decade 2018–2028, launched during the high-level event of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, held at the initiative of the President of the General Assembly on 22 March 2018, World Water Day;

2. *Also welcomes* the activities related to water undertaken by Member States, the Secretariat and the organizations of the United Nations system, inter alia,

[2] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[3] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[4] Resolution 69/283, annex II.
[5] Resolution 71/256, annex.
[6] Resolution 69/15, annex.
[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

through inter-agency work, as well as contributions from major groups, for the observance and implementation of the Decade;

3. *Reaffirms* its decision, in accordance with its resolution 71/222 on the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, to review the implementation of the Decade at its seventy-seventh session;

4. *Decides* to convene, in New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023, coinciding with World Water Day, the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, which are a greater focus on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives, the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects, as well as on the furtherance of cooperation and partnerships at all levels, in order to help to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which will result in a summary of the proceedings of the conference, to be prepared by the President of the General Assembly as its outcome document, that will feed into the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, through voluntary contributions, to convene in New York, in 2021, a one-day high-level meeting to promote the implementation of the water-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in support of the implementation of the Decade and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the support of UN-Water, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system, to prepare a report for the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, to assess progress in the implementation of the first half of the Decade, including the Secretary-General's Plan: Water Action Decade 2018–2028, and, taking into account best practices and lessons learned, to identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives needed to overcome them during the second half of the Decade and activities planned by Member-States, the Secretary-General and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, which will serve as an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

7. *Decides* that the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action shall be preceded by regional and global preparatory meetings, as appropriate, and informed by existing water-related meetings at the regional and global level, and that all costs relating to the Conference and its preparatory process shall be financed through voluntary contributions, and in this connection requests the Secretary-General to coordinate the preparatory process and to invite all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and other relevant organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide support to the review process;

8. *Encourages* Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant partners, including the private sector, to continue to contribute to the review and implementation of the Decade, including through capacity-building, in order to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

9. *Reiterates* the critical importance of effective review of the implementation of the Decade at the national, regional and international levels, as

appropriate, and in this regard invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, financial institutions, private sector and other relevant stakeholders and donors to support the preparations for the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action through voluntary contributions to a trust fund,[9] including for the purpose of assisting developing countries in participating fully and effectively in the review and implementation of the Decade;

10. *Stresses* the importance of the participation and full involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including women, children, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, in the implementation of the Decade at all levels;

11. *Decides* to finalize the arrangements for the comprehensive review during its seventy-fifth session, taking into account the process of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level after the first cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

12. *Invites* the Secretary-General, with the support of UN-Water, to continue taking appropriate steps, within existing resources, to support and organize the activities of the Decade at the global, regional and country levels, taking into account the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other relevant United Nations structures, and to support those Member States which lack capacity, at their request, in the implementation of the Decade and the 2030 Agenda.

[9] The trust fund to support the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.